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SEASON 1893-94.

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A high class Fertiliser for Pot Plants and for use in the Garden generally; it supplies natural nourishment to the soil and assists the process of assimilation, thereby aiding the plants to attain to their full size, vigour, and beauty.

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This work is alike interesting to the student of botany and to the practical gardener, and comprises a large number of plants which for the convenience of reference are arranged in separate groups and are headed with their ordinary and botanical names.

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Is practically dealt with, and Pruning, Grafting, and Manuring thoroughly explained.

Price: \$7.50.

A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED,
The Hongkong Dispensary.
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 4th September, 1893.

DEATH.

At Amoy, on the 10th instant, R. HELLWIG.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1893.

THE COLONIAL TREASURERSHIP.

The following is an extract from a note sent us this morning by a reliable correspondent:—

"It will doubtless interest you to know that the friends of Mr. Smeaton Smith and Mr. A. M. Thomson are both confident of the Treasurership. It is needless to say that both these comparatively juvenile and inexperienced officials are quite ignorant of finance and accounts, book-keeping, etc. The only qualification they appear to possess for this responsible position is in the fact that they are 'passed cadets' and are said to have an imperfect smattering of Chinese."

Rumours in accordance with the foregoing remarks have certainly been current in the colony for some time past, but we cannot really believe that any one in his sober senses could have regarded them seriously, or ever contemplated the possibility of such an appointment. On referring to the record of these two officials we find that Mr. THOMAS Smeaton Smith became a "passed cadet" in 1885, and from that time until 1890, with the exception of five months when in the capacity of acting magistrate he turned the Magistracy into a howling wilderness, he was a clerk in the Registrar General's department. He has been home on leave

for the last two or three years. Mr. ALEXANDER McDONALD THOMSON ranked as a "passed cadet" in December, 1890; he acted as Superintendent of the Gaoi from April, 1891, to March, 1892, was clerk in the Colonial Secretary's office and acting Clerk of Councils for a few months, and since the Hon. J. H. STUART LOCKHART was despatched to London as his Excellency the Governor's Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary on that most amusing, albeit expensive special mission to establish a Chinese coolie traffic between Hongkong and Brazil, Mr. Thomson has been the *locum tenens* of the only successor to the immortal K.A. the Wooden-headed.

Now, we have no reason to doubt, in congenial work of which they have some practical knowledge, that both these comparative novices in business life are useful and trustworthy officials; but what has really to be considered is whether either one of them has the experience and technical training absolutely necessary for any man to be an efficient Treasurer of this colony. So far as can be gathered from their published records, neither of the enterprising twain has the slightest acquaintance, or has had any experience whatever, in qualifications which ought to be a *sine qua non*. Mr. Smith is a B.A. of London, Mr. Thomson an M.A. of Aberdeen, but as our correspondent very aptly puts it, "they are quite ignorant of finance and accounts, book-keeping, etc., and it is almost invariably the case that a person added with a University degree and what is known as a classical education is a hopeless incompetent in the intricacies of general business."

The appointment of the new Colonial Treasurer is a matter in which the rate-payers of the colony have a very strong interest and an incontrovertible right to protest against any action likely to lead to a repetition of the disgraceful scandals which so recently degraded the Hongkong Government, its generally incompetent personnel and its loose and shady methods, robbing the tax-payers of a sum estimated at over \$60,000 but which in all probability totalled four or five times that amount. Books and records that are burned off hand, conveniently tell no tales; but that the Treasury funds had been going on for the past twenty years at least is about as certain as anything can be. And the luckless rate-payers were as usual the victims. In the *Telegraph's* opinion the Treasury department should be entirely reconstructed and placed under the control of the Colonial Secretary, who, if we are rightly informed, has ample leisure time to devote to the extra duties. This system worked well in the past, and it was a contemptible job on the part of Sir "Jaw Bone" which created a separate department for the benefit of the late Mr. ALFRED LISTER. The cost of the Treasury for 1892 was \$27,375, the estimate for the current year is \$27,092—an extravagance for which there is no excuse, as we are certain the entire work could be efficiently performed at less than one-half of the smaller of these amounts. But in any case the community is entitled to insist that Mr. MITCHELL-INNES's successor must be a thoroughly competent and reliable man who understands the special duties of the department. It would no doubt for obvious reasons be preferable to have a Hongkong official appointed, and there are undoubtedly several experienced men in various capacities quite competent for the post, but they are not "passed cadets" and on that account long service and approved efficiency go for nothing and are ignored. Nothing can be more certain than the somewhat depressing circumstance that there is not a single "passed cadet" in the Service competent for the vacant post, and against such a stubborn fact the influence of the friends of rival candidates should be of no avail. If the posts of Governor, Commander-in-Chief, Commodore, Chief Justice, or even Director of the Observatory were to fall vacant, the "passed cadets" would at once take the field as applicants. Could satire on this rotten and flagrantly costly cadet system go any further?

TELEGRAMS.

THE SHERMAN ACT REPEAL DEBATE IN THE SENATE.

LONDON, October 13th.
At Washington the Senate has begun a continuous sitting in order to secure the vote upon the repeal of the Sherman Act. The clock room has been fitted up with creaks and special arrangements made for refreshments. Senator Allen spoke for fifteen hours in favour of repeal. The repealers defeated one free coinage amendment; the debate continues.

AMERICA'S GOLD RESERVE.

The gold reserve in the United States Treasury has fallen to eighty-seven million dollars, the smallest amount on record.

THE "DENBIGHSHIRE" FLOATED.

We are indebted to Messrs. Dodwell, Carill & Co. for the following:—
Kobe, October 13th.
The *Denbighshire* has been floated, and her damaged cargo is now being discharged.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

NEW YORK uses about 160,000,000 gallons of water daily.

A SUM of \$4,500 is missing from the Godown Company's comparative office. So is a Chinese clerk who got leave last week.

Young mother—"How many kinds of colls medicine have you?"
Druggist—"Dozens of 'em, ma'am. How many kinds of colls is your baby troubled with?"

A LARGE steam saw-mill, fitted with the best modern appliances, was opened with great éclat on the 23rd ult. at Ben-thuy, by the Toankin Timber and Trading Co., Limited.

A REGULAR Convocation of Victoria Chapter, No. 535, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Nathan Road, on day, the 20th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

THE foremast, etc., left in West Lamma Channel by the American ship *John Curry*, and to which we drew attention as being a danger to navigation, has been towed into port by the *Pilot Fish*.

A REGULAR meeting of Perseverance Lodge, No. 1165, E.C., will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, on Monday, the 16th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

THE record kept at the Halphong military hospital shows that from 1st January to 23rd September, 1891, the rainfall there was 2,031 inches, against 1,600 for the whole of 1892. The maximum was in July, 0.86249 m., or over 18 inches.

SAYS the New York *Recorder* of the 4th ult.:—"Edmund Edward S. Beck and his deputy, W. E. Fales, are enjoying a return to life and Gotham. Nothing is too good for them, and they appreciate to the full—very full—the hospitable courtesies of their many friends."

THE V. R. C. smoking concert, which is to be held in the Club's gymnasium to-morrow night, gives promise of being a great success. All available talent has been secured, and a very prettily arranged stage prepared. Smiling is to begin at 9 o'clock, sharp.

A CHINESEMAN who was engaged in painting Waglan Lighthouse, which, by the way, suffered very slightly from the effect of the recent storm, fell from one of the ledges this morning, a distance of about 30 feet, twisting his skull and breaking one of his ribs. He is at present in Hospital here, insensible.

AT Sir Hogarty's Dinner Party.—Chapple—"Ah, you here, old man? Awfully mixed crowd, isn't it? There are actually a couple of tallahs here, by Jove." Cholley—"You don't tell me! That's just splendid, you know. Shall get out here to give me an introduction to one of them, and go wound to-morrow and ordah a new suit."

A WELL-ADVERTISED Sydney evangelist recently was remonstrating with a bluff barrister on the earthly nature of his ways. The barrister pleaded his profession. "You should attend to your business above," said the evangelist pointing upwards. "If I attend to my business in Heaven," said the other, "my business below would go to—well, Nicodemus."

THE Band of the 1st Shropshire Light Infantry will play the following programme at the Barrack Square, this evening, commencing at 7.30 o'clock:—

1. "The Blue Bird" (Solo).
2. "The March of the Guards" (Solo).
3. "The March of the Guards" (Solo).
4. "The March of the Guards" (Solo).
5. "The March of the Guards" (Solo).
6. "The March of the Guards" (Solo).
7. "The March of the Guards" (Solo).
8. "The March of the Guards" (Solo).
9. "The March of the Guards" (Solo).
10. "The March of the Guards" (Solo).

FIRE broke out about 9.45 last night at 14, 11 Slog Street, leading from the Praya to Queen's Road, just below the Government Civil Hospital. The house, three stories high, was occupied by a dealer in sharks' fins. The fire originated in the top floor, which was the middle floor, and in five minutes the Brigade got the upper hand. The damage is estimated at about \$4,000, and is covered with the Economic Insurance Co. of which Messrs. Hutchison & Co. are agents.

AN inquiry was opened at the British Consulate, Canton, this morning, with reference to the disappearance of Capt. Crowle, of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. steamer *Ching Ping*, who, when the vessel was last sighted, was on the bridge of the steamer, and was reported to have been seen on Tiger Island about midnight on the 11th inst. No further details are yet available, but we shall probably receive the results of the Consular investigation by *Puwan* to-morrow morning.

As will be seen by advertisement, Professor Max's manager at West Point re-opens to-morrow night. Max has quite recovered from his recent injuries and the animals are said to be in the best of health. Fortune has not treated the enterprising proprietor of this show with any great amount of favour since coming to Hongkong, for the manager has twice been blown into smithereens by sportive typhoons. However, with a third start it is to be hoped that the show will meet with its just meed of public support.

The Shanghai correspondent of a Tientsin paper, pointing out that three-fifths of the vessels calling at that port are British, as against two-fifths French, goes on to state that almost everybody prefers the French mail boats for the voyage to Europe, but the tedious railway journey across France to England is a heavy handicap. He suggests that the M.M. steamers, like the P. & O. and N. D. L., should call at some English port and thus secure the through traffic.

A FRENCH physician who has studied the habit of all hitting carefully and scientifically for some years, announces that the practice, which he dignifies with the name of onychophagy, prevails to a deplorable extent among the school children of Paris. More than one-fourth of the boy pupils in the public schools are confirmed nail biters, among the girls the percentage is larger. The habit, the doctor said, is due to nervousness, and he proposed to cure it by means of hypnosis "suggestion."

THE Foremast Tug Company's steamer *Cass* had a decidedly unpleasant experience while lying at anchor in Tamarit harbour during the gale of the 6th inst. Owing to the heavy rains that had fallen, a tremendous body of water was sweeping down the river and this, together with the force of the wind, was too much for the *Cass*, which, with a sudden snap, parted in twain and the vessel was driven on to one of the banks, the bottom and soft mud, and eventually the vessel was got off without having sustained any damage whatever.

THE "Bon Mots" of Sydney Smith and Richard Brinsley Sheridan is the title of a new book. Here are a few of Sydney Smith's witticisms:—"My house is just now full of cinders. They are all first cousins, and I wish them—once removed." When that shrewd Mr. S. appears anywhere, though there is no garison within twelve miles the horizon is immediately clouded with "majors." "The Church's ordinances of feasts and fasts are tolerably well kept up. The sick keep the feasts and the poor the fasts." "Gout is the only enemy which I don't wish to have at my feet." Of the good things attributed to Sheridan these are a sample:—"Two Royal dukes meeting, Sheridan, declared that they were discussing whether they were more fool or rogue, and lordly asked his own opinion. Bowing and taking each by an arm he replied:—"Why, I believe I believe I am between both." Everyone knows how Sheridan "went to the Jews." On being told once that the lost tribes of Israel had been found, he said he was glad to hear it, as he had nearly exhausted the other ten. Some of the best things were said by Sheridan's son, Tom. When his father met him the first time after the youth's marriage with the assurance that he had made his will and cut him off with a shilling:—"You don't happen to have the shilling about you now, sir, do you?"

TWO men were fined \$15 each or one month by Mr. Wodehouse at the Magistracy to-day for "injecting morphine in the street." So the charge-sheet said, but it did not say whether the street liked being injected.

THUS the *Investigator's* Review on certain Australian birds "the second loss, proceeded never took place in the history of any country, but it will not be long before the infidelity bears fruit. Their balance-sheets have been false, for many years they have been conducting their affairs on the most approved style of the Liberator Building Society. Within a year's time or less most of these reconstructed banks will topple over again."

AMONG the Tonkinese, when a wife is proved unfaithful she is bound to a horse and to Macao, and turned adrift; then if the steed is caught, the rider is executed. Thus it happened, according to the *Courier*, that when first the natives saw a horse-race, with a number of animals careering wildly with brightly dressed (i.e. presumably female) Europeans on board, they concluded that the Frenchmen were holding a wholesale execution of their frail ones!

VERY serious complaints have been made this summer as to the bruising of the troops in the outlying parts of this colony. The men who have been stationed at the new model (7) barracks at Ly-e-moon, to look after the big guns, have to put up with mist-dust, rotten walls, badly designed and abominably constructed ventilators. If this sort of thing is to become permanent, the War Office authorities in Fimlico should be requested to serve out "Boston swimming dresses" and sea boots. As one Tommy facetiously remarked:—"If this is the new barracks, give me a blooming tent!" To which another retorted:—"It's all right to have a hannel bath, but we don't want to live in it!" At Kowloon it is equally bad, and there is urgent need of improvement. These complaints are proved genuine by the fact that the hospital rate is going up rapidly.

HEALTH HINTS.

Raw egg for a cut.
Hot water for sprains.
Don't violate the common laws of health.
Don't be sparing of carbolio acid and chloride of lime.

Do you wish to strengthen your muscles? Give them proper exercise. Do you wish to strengthen your memory? Use it.

A physician in Switzerland declares that he cures certain forms of throat disease by making his patients yawn several times a day.

Michaelmas. "Ugh! it is some wise the art of the world, which creates us, fashions us, sculptures us with the fine edge of a pillbox chisel."

A medical journal asserts that people who drink cow's milk are more prone to consumption than those who use the milk of the reinder, the buffalo or the goat.

THE STEAM-LAUNCH PICNIC.

At the Magistracy this afternoon, before Mr. Hastings, Cheung Yau, certified master of the launch *Kling Star*, who has been prosecuting Messrs. H. W. Fraser, W. M. Wood, and J. A. E. Chaudet for assault on board the said vessel on the 23rd ult., was charged with assaulting Mr. Fraser and with behaving in a disorderly manner on the same occasion. Mr. G. J. Philippo prosecuted and Mr. H. L. Denny's defended.

J. A. E. Chaudet, one of the passengers on the picnic, gave his story of the row, somewhat after the evidence given yesterday. Witness was not near the scene of the disturbance, but heard it from the extreme bow. Afterwards witness took the wheel. In view of the possibility of somebody being thrown overboard in the row, witness starboarded to come nearer to the land. Then the engines stopped or slowed.

Afterwards witness felt the wheel being revolved out of his hands, to port the helm. A Chinaman was taking hold of the wheel from behind, and Captain Tillet on the other side. Witness relinquished the wheel and walked round to speak to Captain Tillet—i.e. from port to starboard in front of the wheel. Mr. Crow said to witness "Stand by—they are going to make a rush; they have just made one!" Three or four Chinese were conferring with angry words and menacing looks, but immediately collapsed. Witness then went forward to where Cheung Yau was deposited. Whilst at the wheel witness had noticed a group of objects pass by him, and he was the first to see them. Cheung Yau reclining in the extreme bow of the boat partly supported by a stanchion. The man looked up; then Mr. Adamson came up and asked in mutilated English "What for you no go full speed Englishman?" "I talk you." The man replied, accompanying the words by gestures, and in a strong voice, but his speech was incoherent and witness did not gather the nature of his reply. The man seemed strong and well, and like a man with a grievance, and the tone of his voice seemed rather apologetic. Witness never touched the man—never had an opportunity, and never was near him in the row.

Mr. Philippo said he would not ask the witness anything about Mr. Farmer, as his Worship had objected.

Witness—At the same time, in view of the publicity which has been given in the press, and the foul and false aspersions cast upon us—

His Worship—I have nothing to do with what the press does. The press is a "laugher" here and there also, but I do not take that down, and I have nothing to do with it.

Cross-examined—Witness would not say he was singing, as he did not know whether he had musical talent enough to justify the term; but he gave a song with musical accompaniment. It was a song of "Moody and Sankey's" tune. The only one which he could remember. Then he heard the row, and on turning to look he saw there was nobody at the wheel. Witness therefore went to the wheel, and on the way he saw the struggle. Afterwards he saw the defendant on the starboard side, at a stanchion just about the wheel; head slightly turned off, and one hand round the stanchion. There were two or three persons standing round. Witness understood that Mr. Fraser organised the picnic. When witness first heard the row somebody said "It is a drunken Chinaman; they are only scuffling him." Then witness played the piano for a few moments, and then went to the wheel. He did not think the defendant's shouts indicated pain. He did not see defendant assaulting or being assaulted by the first he noticed of the defendant was where described, lying at reclining. Witness was an officer of the Civil Service, and had no nautical training; he took the wheel because he saw it was missing, and so he went. He was in danger. He returned the launch towards the land. Between dinner and the row would be about an hour and a quarter—there had been six or eight songs. Some of the party were to go to supper at 11.30—he thought it was a general invitation, and did not know of anybody not being invited. Could not say how many men were round the Chinaman—it was all blurred and indistinct. The Hongkongers were not standing together as if expecting a rush of the Chinese.

By the Court—Witness could not remember whether there was a light near the wheel. There was no light at the piano. The cabin

was in darkness, and the piano blocked the light. There was thus no light on the defendant as he lay at the vessel's side; but witness particularly noticed that his face looked pale. The nearest of the persons standing round would be quite close, but witness could not say whether they were European or Chinese.

Dr. J. A. Lawson, assistant superintendent at the Government Civil Hospital, said he saw the defendant on Sunday, September 24th, about 9.15, by Dr. Atkinson's special request. Witness sent for an interpreter, and while the defendant was describing the row on the launch witness was taking a walk. The man said he had a pain in the left side from fighting with Europeans on the previous night. Witness examined him, and found there was nothing physically wrong with him except that he must have been under the influence of alcohol. His eyes were "decidedly groggy." Witness sufficed and jaundiced. Witness stared him with drinking, and he admitted it; said his mother had given him some liquor the day before. This was partly told through the interpreter.

Mr. Denny objected that what the interpreter said was not evidence.

Witness said he could not find any mark on the man, except a slight one on the shoulder; he seemed all right, and witness discharged him. The insensibility mentioned could only have been produced by an injury to the head, a severe shock, or a narcotic poison—alcohol, for instance. Witness did not think it could have been due to any shock as described; he thought it was simply "grogginess," not drink. The pulse was a little "soft," and he was a little excited, but he seemed all right. Witness at the time of examination formed the opinion that the man was all right, and after hearing the evidence was certain he had been drinking.

Cross-examined—Witness heard about the row at breakfast time, but he was not at the examination. He did not see Mr. Wood, nor Mr. Crow, as far as he could remember. The man might have been insensible three hours if "denied," but would not then be bright and lively next morning. The opinion given by Dr. Atkinson could not have made him look "groggy." Witness thought Dr. Atkinson must have been mistaken, as he admitted himself in saying that after all the man was not hurt. Witness did not agree with the popular doctrine about the tenderness of the Chinese spleen; did not think real pain or injury could be caused without an external mark.

By the Court—As to Dr. Atkinson's statement that the man had no appearance of being drunk, witness differed. Dr. Atkinson had the better opportunity of seeing whether the man was or was not drunk; but Dr. Atkinson said in evidence that he was.

His Worship found that Dr. Atkinson had not said so at all.

L. E. Brett, ward-master at the hospital, said that the defendant when given an opinion by Dr. Atkinson went to sleep at once, and slept till seven next morning. The man had been drinking, and seemed to be in pain—nearly killed. Witness thought he was shamming, as he slept so well.

Cross-examined—Witness could not say whether the sleep was caused by the opium. He had five wards to go round every half hour; and every time he shook the man and asked "Tung-ah!" meaning "Any pain?"

W. E. Crow, analyst at the Government Civil Hospital, said he was on board the launch on the 23rd ult.; heard some of the party singing going full speed, and then heard Mr. Fraser tell the man in charge to go full speed. The defendant refused, saying he had been ordered to go half speed. Then Mr. Wood joined Mr. Fraser and told the defendant to take the order. Mr. Fraser also told defendant "I am No. 1 of this party, you take my order." Then defendant became noisy, and Mr. John Quail joined in. Witness also went up and said to defendant "Why don't you take this gentleman's order?"

Then defendant turned and shouted something in Chinese, and the engines stopped, and the whistle was blown. The man was then taken forward, past the witness' left side as he faced aft. A rush was made by some of the Chinese, and witness stopped them. One man was making a rush along the bulwarks by the stanchions. Witness, as he turned, saw the defendant on the deck. His attention was then directed to a man who was making a rush towards right side; witness stopped him, and told the men to keep quiet. Those two were all who actually "rushed." On turning again he saw Captain Tillet near the wheel. The defendant was then reclining in the bows. Witness went forward, and Captain Tillet called out to everybody to sit down so as not to interfere with his sight of the course. Captain Tillet remained in charge and brought the launch to the wharf. The defendant was not all right on arrival. A constable tried to raise him, but did not succeed. Witness thought the man was drunk. He saw defendant next on Monday, about 10 a.m., in the hospital, standing looking out of the window. Witness asked "What about last Saturday night?" and defendant immediately sat down on the bed and pretended to be hurt. Witness thought he was shamming, and left the room. The first that witness knew about his being hurt or complaining was on reading the papers.

Cross-examined—Witness had no opinion of "shamming" until Monday morning. Witness did not help to carry defendant to the bows of the launch, but was keeping back the Chinese. The whole party of 18 Europeans were forward, and there were two or three Chinese; he thought they were going to prevent placing the man under restraint. Witness then helped to get the man put under restraint. Witness told the man to follow Mr. Fraser's orders; Mr. Wood also spoke to the defendant, then Mr. Quail also spoke to him. It might have been that Mr. Anderson and others might have given the man other orders. Witness could not say who first gave the order to leave up the anchor, or who ordered half speed. "Anybody might have done it. Witness first thought the man was drunk when he refused to obey orders and spoke angrily, and said he had been ordered to go full speed; did not see any blows struck at all by anybody. There was a great deal of shouting. Witness saw the defendant being held down on deck, but didn't say by whom. Did not hear Mr. Fraser playing the piano at all during the row; did not hear any piano then, nor any "Moody and Sankey."

Mr. Philippo announced that his case was now concluded; Captain Tillet was to have been called, but was sick. There was already ample evidence to show that Mr. Fraser, Mr. Wood, and Mr. Chaudet were not what Cheung Yau had said. He was willing to leave the case in his Worship's hands without saying any more.

Mr. Denny said that he had no wish to address the court unless judgment was to be given forthwith, in which case he would like to review some of the evidence given for Cheung Yau, now some weeks ago.

His Worship said he would look over all the evidence carefully, and would give judgment on Monday next, at noon.

THE GAP ROCK LIGHTHOUSE.

PARTICULARS OF THE DAMAGE.

On the 13th instant the heavy sea of the breakers of Gap Rock Lighthouse was removed here through Captain Fritts, of the P. & O. steamer *Clyde*, since that time various rumours

relative to the amount of damage done have been current—some that even the foundations had suffered in the recent storm, others that the quarters of the light-keepers, as well as the lantern, had been seriously shattered. However, although the Government has two well-found tenders here, and the Dock Co.'s tug, *Pilot Fish*, is under special charter, no official inspection of the building could be effected until Wednesday last, owing to the seas that were breaking against the rock and rendering landing an impossibility. Even then it was effected with considerable difficulty and danger, in consequence of the landing, which having been washed away and a heavy surf surging over the precipitous boulders at the landing steps.

The Government officials specially despatched to the *Pilot Fish*, Capt. Stipon, to report on the damage sustained, were Messrs. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, Mr. R. M. Rumsey, R.N., Harbour Master, and Mr. J. R. Modie, the engineer, who superintended the erection of the Lighthouse. A footing on the rock having been effected, it was at once observed that seas must have broken over the north-east side of it with great violence, for the strong iron railings added into the little concrete causeway, which joins the two parts of the rock together, and fills up the cavity from which the island derives its name, were torn out and lying about in pieces, while the outer part of the building, in which the keepers live, was partially wrecked—huge pieces of plaster having been washed away at a height of at least 20 feet above sea-level. This appeared to have caused leaks and holes through which the sea sprouted into the keepers' store-room and damaged their provisions.

The light-house itself was found to have fared very badly in the storm of the 1st and 2nd inst., and looked as though the seas, not merely the spray, but seas, had broken clean over the spiral building, for eight panes of thick glass, the outer casing of the light, were smashed to atoms by one of the seas which put the light out and irretrievably smashed three out of the seven lenses and tore and twisted the brass frame-work and pivot of the burner to such an extent as to render them useless. Even the heavy and solid cast-iron lantern, the upper part of the building, was torn from their rivets and hurled with such violence into the oil-room as to smash several crans of oil and wreck everything in the place. Of course, without the proper number of lenses the light cannot be seen at the full distance (10 miles), but when the one spare lens which has been kept on hand, is fixed in position, the light will probably be discernible at a distance of 12 miles. At present its radius is about eight miles only. The burner of the light, having been damaged, but a spare one having been sent out with the apparatus a year or so ago, it was speedily fixed in position and with it the temporary light is being worked, while the damaged burner is being repaired locally and will be kept handy in case of future mishaps.

Why more forethought was not manifested when the light was ordered from home, we are a loss to understand, for it would occur to almost any one that weather likely to damage a strong brass burner would be sure to damage the lenses, and that, therefore, if advisable to have on hand a spare burner it would be equally necessary to have at least one set of lenses on hand. The lenses, however, are not seriously damaged, but some iron doors, let into the foundation (for strengthening purpose?) have been smashed in. Taken altogether the damage done to Gap Rock Lighthouse is considerable, on the the E. N. E. side of the building in particular, and it will cost a good round sum (one estimate is stated at \$3,000) to put the place into anything like proper working order. In the meantime the full facts of this startling episode of incompetency, carelessness and lack of foresight on the part of the Marquis of Ripon put in answer to the hapless Colonial Treasurer, "lack of ordinary intelligence" will probably have some light thrown upon it in the Council Chamber.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

October 13th, 1893.

In my last I informed you that the coolies who were waiting here for shipment to Brazil by the *Titanos* were to have gone on 7th and that celebrated craft on Sunday last, but they have not yet done owing to the fact that their quarters have not been fitted up. Quite a large number of carpenters are engaged on the job, but I have not yet been invited to inspect the work I cannot pass an opinion as to the quality of the *Titanos* is at last fitted out as a *bona fide* cooler trader or not. About 350 "free immigrants" will sail in her—i.e. she is permitted to sail at all.

The ship is now lying in Chinese waters; being about 94 nautical miles from Macao. It is on the cards that the Viceroy of Canton or the Customs authorities at Lappa will have something to say with reference to her departure, that is, if she is not provided with the necessary papers from the Chinese Government.

The banner which was held a fortnight since raised no less than \$1,400—not at all a mean sum considering the state of local finance.

The "Oly" improvement in any Government department worthy of note, is the establishment of a

